OMB No. 1024-0018

KFS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

VLR-4/28/95 NRHP-7/7/95

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register \_

\_ other (explain): \_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting det for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box as by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable," For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrance leaves (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, 1. Name of Property historic name Laurel Meadow other names/site number \_\_VDHR File No. 42-244 2. Location street & numberE side SR 643, .2 mi. S of jct. w/SR 627 not for publication N/A city or town Mechanicsville vicinity X code VA 23111 state **Virgin<del>ia</del>** county **Hanover** zip code State/Federal Agency Certification -----As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, ■ hereby certify that this \_x\_ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places end meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_x\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_ nationally statewide \_x\_locally. ( \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet far additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SURVEY & RESISTER 6.5.95 Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the national Register criteria, ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet far additional comments.) Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_ National Park Service Certification I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

Laurel Meadow	Hanover County, Virginia
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes a  private public-local public-State public-Federal	s apply)
Category of Property (Check only one box)  -x building(s)  - district - site - structure - object	
Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing Noncontributing  3 4 buildings 0 5 sites 0 1 structures 0 0 objects 3 5 Total	
Number of contributing resources previously Register0_	listed in the National
Name of related multiple property listing (Er a multiple property listing.)  ===================================	nter "N/A" if property is not part of N/A
AGRICULTURE	Single dwelling Agricultural outbuilding School
Current Functions (Enter categories from ins Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: AGRICULTURE	tructions) Single dwelling Storage
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categoriEARLY REPUBLIC: Federal	es from instructions)
Materials (Enter categories from instruction foundation BRICK walls WOOD: weatherboard	•
roof METAL: tinother	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)  A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable emitty whose components lack individual distinction.  D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.  Criteria Considerations (Mank Countries)  A counted by a religious institution of the broad patterns of a birthpiace or a grave.  D a cemetery.  E a reconstructed building, object, or a commemorative property.	<b>1.</b>
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE	
Period of Significanceca. 1820 ca. 1890	
Significant Dates ca. 1820	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above	<b>2</b> )
Cultural AffiliationN/A	
Architect/Builder unknown_	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significand one or more continuation sheets.)	ce of the property on
9. Major Bibliographical References	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in prepar or more continuation sheets.)	ring this form on one
Previous documentation on file (NPS)  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  has been requested.  previously listed in the National Register  previously determined eligible by the National Register  designated a National Historic Landmark  recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #  Primary Location of Addition  **Example **Individual Listing**  Primary Location of Addition  **Example **Individual Listing**    State Historic Preservat   Deferring **Individual Listing**   Local government	

<u>Laurel Meadow</u>							•	Hanover	County,	Virginia
10. Geographi	ca]	L Dat	a			=====		=======================================		
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	5	18	293620	4167540	4	18	293670	4167650		
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Boundary Just: (Explain why the				elected on	a c	contin	uation she	et.)		
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Additional items Check with the SHPO or FF		r any addi	itional items)							
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend

response required to this information is being collected for applications to the national register of response to this required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et sequired to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et sequired to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.

Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Laurel Meadow Hanover County, Virginia

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Laurel Meadow is a farm consisting of a dwelling and associated outbuildings located on State Route 643 in eastern Hanover County, Virginia. The house is an asymmetrical five-bay, 1½-story house with three gable dormers. It has a pedimented porch and an exterior-end chimney on each gable end. Contributing buildings are the 1½-story dwelling, a one-room schoolhouse, and a barn. Among the noncontributing resources are four buildings: a relocated tenant house, a modern brick garage and two modern sheds; and one structure: a relocated cornerib.

The house had two major building periods, but has also received more discrete expansions and renovations over the past 150 years. The original hall-parlor-plan house with its unusual entrance vestibule and central staircase was constructed in the early nineteenth century. A shed-roofed addition was added to the north elevation later in the nineteenth century. The house was further expanded during the late nineteenth century with a shed-roofed addition on the east side. Other porches and entries have been added on three sides of the house that allow for exterior access to basement rooms.

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Laurel Meadow is an early-nineteenth-century frame and weatherboarded house that has had numerous additions in its long history. The original house was built as a 1½-story hall-parlor-plan dwelling. It has a raised brick basement that is laid in five-course American bond. The house originally had two exterior-end chimneys; however, the east chimney was later encapsulated by subsequent additions. The house has a gable roof with dormers. The roof is clad in standing-seam metal that replaced wooden shingles. Beaded weatherboard was the original cladding and survives on seventy percent of the house.

The three-bay principal elevation of the original house measures fifty-feet-two-inches. The raised basement has three, four-over-eight, double-hung sash windows, two west of the porch and one east of the porch. The pedimented wooden porch that shelters the doorway has five wooden steps leading up from the ground to the porch floor. The porch has a gable roof with square tapered posts and a plain balustrade. The main entrance is flanked by two four-over-four pane, double-hung sash windows to the west and by one four-over-four pane, double-hung sash window to the east. Across the front of the house's gable roof are three gable dormers with six-over-six pane, double-hung sash. All original windows have corner block paterae and recessed ovolo surrounds. The plain doorway consists of a six-panel wooden door with no transom or sidelights.

The one-bay west elevation of the house is twenty-feet-six-inches wide. It is dominated by an exterior-end brick chimney laid in four-course American bond and centered on the gable end massing. The evidence of symmetrically flanking windows is present in the basement

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Laurel Meadow Hanover County, Virginia

brickwork; the window to the south has been filled and the window on the north is blocked by an air conditioning unit. On the first floor there is a small casement window in the rear shed room. A small attic casement window is also present south of the chimney stack.

The north elevation has many additions. The three-bay northwest addition is 28' 1" x 9' 6" with a shed roof. The basement has three twelve-pane, double-hung sash windows. The first floor has two small replacement windows that flank a larger six-over-six pane, double-hung sash window that may be a replacement for an earlier doorway. This addition does not have beaded weatherboard. To the northeast of this major addition are two low shed-roofed additions of recent construction that expand the basement living space. Immediately adjacent to the northwest addition is a brick bulkhead that gives outside access to the kitchen in the basement. A second modern basement addition extends from the northeast corner of the rear elevation and is 13'6" x 6'3". One original first-floor window surrounded by trim with corner blocks and one gable dormer survive on the original portion of the rear elevation.

The east elevation has been highly modified with a shed-roofed addition. The raised basement has a double window with two two-over-four pane, double-hung sash windows; one three-over-six, double-hung sash window; and a lean-to entry on the east side giving external access to the basement. On the first floor this elevation has two modern windows: one eight-over-eight pane, double-hung sash window and one casement window. The addition encompasses the exterior end chimney, which has been rebuilt in stretcher bond.

The raised basement of the main house has five rooms. The entry room and laundry room occupy the space under the east addition and encompass the east end chimney and the original exterior doorway into the basement. The den currently occupies the space under the hall and contains a fireplace that had been bricked in until the most recent renovations. The mantel was removed when it was bricked up. Its ceiling joists are exposed. The north wall of the den has a doorway that leads to the kitchen in the northwest addition. A board partition on the west separates the kitchen from the pantry which features a brick floor. The west room in the basement is used as a dining room. The mantel on the west wall is not original. On the east wall the closed-string stairway leads to the first floor, and a door leads into the den.

From the main entrance on the first floor one enters a small vestibule with stairs leading down to the dining room and doors to the living room on the east side, and the bedroom on the west side. The living room has a chair rail and a mantel with turned columns supporting a high shelf. The walls and ceilings are plastered. The small door on the north wall leads into the northern addition through a very small hallway containing a closet and bathroom. The room at the end of the small hallway may have been a rear entry into the house, but at present a window has replaced the door to the backyard. This northern room gives access to the second floor through the central boxed stairway. This staircase is unusual not only for its central location between the two original rooms of the house, but also for its exterior access. The original exterior door to the stair later became an interior door when the shed-roofed northern addition of the house was constructed. On the second floor, the master bedroom is to the south, and a

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Laurel Meadow Hanover County, Virginia

small bedroom is in the northwest corner of the house. The master bedroom retains its original mantel and has a chair rail like that of the living room.

The second floor has two plaster-walled chambers. The east room has two dormer windows on the south wall and one dormer window on the north wall. The east wall has the outline of the removed mantel. The cracked ceiling plaster exposes the lath and roof framing. The plaster of the west room is in better shape. The south wall has one dormer window and the west wall has a small casement window that is now blocked.

A cluster of outbuildings survives south of the main house. A contributing one-room schoolhouse, built in the mid-nineteenth century, is closest to the main house. It measures 16' 3" x 12' 4". The schoolhouse is sheathed in twentieth-century diagonal flush siding on the north and west, while the other two elevations have vertical board-and-batten siding installed during restoration and electrification of the building. The foundation on the north side of the schoolhouse has crumbled and exposes a cellar below the structure. The schoolhouse has a standing-seam metal roof and a vertical-board door on the west elevation.

Immediately south of the schoolhouse is a nineteenth-century, front-gabled corncrib, 16' 2" x 11' 11". Despite its age, the structure is non-contributing because it was recently moved from the bottomland of the property. The structure is not on the original foundation, has been significantly altered, and does not have any of its original siding. The gable roof is covered by standing-seam metal.

Another noncontributing resource that was recently relocated from the bottomland of the property is the tenant house sited immediately south of the corncrib. It measures 20' x 12'5". This house has a hall-parlor plan and its north elevation is the only side that has its original weatherboarding, the other elevations are clad with asbestos shingles. The common gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal.

A barn stands south of the tenant house. This contributing building is in its original location, and although the dates of construction of all the outbuildings are uncertain, a recent survey suggests that the barn was built soon after the Civil War. The barn is constructed of wood with a gable roof facing west and is 40' x 60'. Sheds for equipment storage project on the north and south. A standing-seam metal roof covers an earlier wood plank roof.

The landscape of the property is significant as the historic use of the property was agricultural and the existing property still has two fields in cultivation. There are remnants of a garden next to the main house on the east and the present owners are in the process of restoring it. The boxwoods that line the circular driveway and the walk from the driveway to the house were planted by James Spratley within the last fifty years. Evidence remains of a brick walkway from the driveway to the house. The east elevation faces a line of boxwood that screens the garden and the outbuildings.

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Laurel Meadow Hanover County, Virginia

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Laurel Meadow, an early hall-parlor-plan house built in the early nineteenth century, is located on State Route 643 in eastern Hanover County, Virginia. It is being nominated under Criterion C at the local level of significance because it is an excellent example of a hall-parlor-plan dwelling in eastern Hanover County, and additionally, because it is an informative example of an evolutionary nineteenth-century dwelling. It is also unusual for its central boxed staircase, originally with an exterior access. The one-room schoolhouse on the property is a late-nineteenth-century rare surviving private school building. Of additional interest is the fact that the property was the site of Confederate and Union troop camps during the Civil War. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson's regiment camped at Hundley's Corner on 26 May 1862 which was part of the property at that time. Family tradition states that General Jackson stayed in the house overnight before he met General Lee at Walnut Grove the next morning. The present owners retain two of the original fields but the total acreage has decreased to ten acres.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land on which Laurel Meadow stands was patented by Rice Hughes on 29 April 1693. By 1821, the Oliver family occupied the property. The house, worth \$1,000, was on the property in 1821 when Benjamin Oliver, Sr., willed the property to his son Isaac Oliver. A plat now in the Virginia State Library shows that Isaac Oliver owned the Laurel Meadow property in 1821, as well as the adjacent White Chimneys property. These two properties comprised 1139 acres with 879 on the Laurel Meadow property. After Isaac Oliver's death in 1831, Laurel Meadow, a 458½-acre plantation, was retained by his widow, Ann A. Oliver, as tenant-for-life. At her death the land was sold in 1848 to Archibald B. Timberlake, who conveyed the property to Elizabeth H. Miller in 1849.

George K. Hundley purchased the property, then known as Meadow Green, in 1860, just prior to the Civil War.<sup>4</sup> Confederate and Union troops camped on Laurel Meadow grounds in the summer months of 1862, when the property was part of the battlefield of Pole Green Church. A map from the Confederate Engineer Bureau drawn by General J. F. Gilmer, Chief Engineer, depicts the house owned by G. Hundley. Gilmer calls the northwest corner of the property Hundley's Corner. This ground is not part of the present property. On the night of June 26, 1862, Confederate troops used the house as a hospital.<sup>5</sup>

Family tradition connects the house with General Jackson. Miss Beryl Hundley, granddaughter of the first Hundley to own Laurel Meadow, reported that Jackson spent the night in the Laurel Meadow house in 1862 and met General Lee at Walnut Grove Church the following morning, also that Jackson did not sleep in the room assigned to him but spent all night in the dining room writing dispatches.<sup>6</sup>

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Laurel Meadow Hanover County, Virginia

Documents contemporary with the battle and remembrances connect Jackson's regiment to the Laurel Meadow property by an order given to Jackson by Lee. "At 3:00 Thursday morning, the 26th, instead, General Jackson will advance on the road leading to Pole Green Church communicating his march to General Branch (seven miles above Meadow Bridge)."

There is an account given by a man named Boteler that disproves the idea that Jackson stayed in the house though it does connect him with Hundley's Corner. "The same evening, June 26th, I rejoined General Jackson near Hundley's Corner, where we laid on our arms that night."

Henry Kyd Douglas said in his book, I Rode with Stonewall, that "on the 26th we moved in the direction of Hanover Court House and Hundley's Corner... We remained bivouacked for the night at Hundley's Corner."

The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac 1861-1865, written by E. B. Long, determines that there were skirmishes at Hundley's Corner on 26 June 1862. The 1st Maryland Infantry, the 13th Virginia Infantry, and the 6th Louisiana Infantry had skirmishes with Union troops on that day and the following morning.

Laurel Meadow later was again the site of military action. The Union troops of Barlow's division of Hancock's corps attacked a Confederate line near Pole Green Church on I June 1864. Today one can see a monument that is dedicated to the 36th Wisconsin Regiment; it is located about a mile away from Laurel Meadow. This monument, erected by Charles A. Storke who was captured at Hundley's Corner on I June 1864, is on the site of the Battle of Hundley's Corner. Trenches and artillery emplacements are still in place from the Polegreen Skirmish on I June, 1864" at Laurel Meadow.

George K. Hundley died on 26 October 1892, and in his will stated, "I hereby empower my wife, should she deem it best for the benefit of my children and herself, to sell my farm "Laurel Meadow," located in Hanover County, or any part thereof and invest the proceeds in another, or otherwise, as she may think proper." This will proves that Laurel Meadow was the historical name of the property by at least 1860. Earlier accounts mentioned the property only as Isaac Oliver's estate. The one-room schoolhouse, built in the mid-nineteenth century, is located to the south of the main house. The county survey by Ashley Neville states that the building is a "good example of a mid-nineteenth century private school building."

After George Hundley's death the property quickly changed ownership several times. In October of 1892, his widow sold Laurel Meadow to John F. Hundley.<sup>15</sup> This deed gives the first extant boundary description reference to the Laurel Meadow property. It is "bounded north by Raleigh Road, south by B. S. Cosky, William Martin, and William Waad, east by Mrs. Bat Hill, Joseph Cephas, and R. J. Dickerson, and west by the county road." In October 1896, John Hundley divided the property and sold ninety-five acres to W. A. Bassett and "to Joseph Cephas, which said 109 53/100 acres hereby conveyed has upon it the dwelling and all other buildings belonging to Laurel Meadow." Joseph Cephas sold the property to John W. Simpkins. The Simpkinses in turn sold it to Ella H. Shelton on 23 October 1901 for two thousand dollars. Less than two years later in January 1901 she sold Laurel Meadow to James A. McGhee and the property became the "James A. McGhee Place." The survey of the property for this land transaction by James S. Wingfield found Laurel Meadow is "bounded on the south

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Laurel Meadow Hanover County, Virginia

by the land of Bat Martin, on the east by the land of Walter J. Luck, and on the west by the county road leading from Pole Green Store to School #1."19

On 21 July 1937 the McGhees sold Laurel Meadow to James B. and Mary N. Spratley. The Spratleys, interested in the history of their house, researched the property and wrote many articles on Laurel Meadow. One of these articles is found in *Old Homes of Hanover County, Virginia* along with the history of the adjoining property, White Chimneys, of which Laurel Meadow was part when Isaac Oliver owned the land. Measured drawings and samples of paint taken off walls as they were being stripped were a few of the things that the Spratleys collected during the fifty-two years that they resided in the house. They also moved the corncrib and tenant house from the bottomland of the property because of the threat of disintegration due to moisture from the nearby stream. The schoolhouse, corncrib, and tenant house were restored by the Spratleys.

In May 1989, the Spratleys sold ten acres of the Laurel Meadow property, including the dwelling, to George W. Grubbs. <sup>21</sup> Mr. Grubbs sold the property to Duling in September 1990.

#### **ENDNOTES**

- 1. Patent Book 8, page 245.
- 2. Hanover Property Tax Book B, 1823.
- 3. Hanover County Land Tax Books, District of Robert Taylor, 1848; District of Thomas W. Talley, 1849. See Also Hanover County Historical Society, Old Homes of Hanover County, Virginia (U.S.A.: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1986), 28.
- 4. Ibid.
- 5. Janet Caggiano, "Laurel Meadow", Richmond News Leader 14 February 1990, Henrico/Hanover Plus.
- 6. James B. Spratley, "Laurel Meadow." Hanover County Historical Bulletin 8 (May 1973).
- 7. Robert Underwood, ed., Battles and Leaders of the Civil War vol. 2 (New York: The Century Co., 1964), 351.
- 8. Chambers, vol. 2, 41.
- 9. Henry Kyd Douglas, I Rode With Stonewall. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1940. p. 100.
- 10. John M. Gabbert, Military Operation in Hanover County, Virginia (U.S.A.: Gurtner Graphics and Printing Co., 1989), 28.
- 11. Ibid., 86.
- 12. Ibid., 87.
- 13. Hanover County Historical Society, 29.

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- 14. Hanover County Court Records Will Book 1, 63.
- 15. Hanover County Court Records Deed Book 29, page 66.
- 16. Hanover County Court Records, Deed Book 32, 177.
- 17. Spratley, "Laurel Meadow."
- 18. Hanover County Court Records Deed Book 40, 36.
- 19. Hanover County Court Records, Deed Book 42, page 9.
- 20. Ibid., Deed Book 105, 332.
- 21. Hanover County Court Records, Deed Book 768, 82.

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Laurel Meadow Hanover County, Virginia

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

### Primary Sources

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Gabbert, John M. Military Operation in Hanover County, Virginia, U.S.A.: Gurter Graphics and Printing Co., 1989

Hanover County Court Records, Deed Books 29, 32, 34, 40, 42, 105, 768.

Hanover County Historical Society, Old Homes of Hanover County, Virginia, U.S.A.: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1986.

Spratley, James B. "Laurel Meadow" Hanover County Historical Bulletin 8 May 1973.

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Caggiano, Janet. "Laurel Meadow." Richmond News Leader, 14 Feb. 1990, Henrico/Hanover Plus.

Douglas, Henry Kyd. I Rode with Stonewall, New York: Fawcett Publications Inc., 1961.

Freeman, Douglas Southhall. Lee's Lieutenants, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943.

Neville, A. Brief Survey Form on Laurel Meadow, October 1989.

Underwood, Robert, ed., Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 2. New York: The Century Co., 1964.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points:

A 18 293880 4167570 B 18 293845 4167350 C 18 293675 4167380 D 18 293745 4167460 E 18 293620 4167540 F 18 293670 4167650

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the house, the nineteenth-century schoolhouse, the corncrib, the tenant house, and the barn that have been historically associated with the property.

